

## SEM

They who reach Parnassus' lofty crown,  
Employ their pains to spurn some others down;  
And while self-love each jealous writer rules,  
Contending wits become the sport of fools. *Pope.*  
It may be thought that Ulysses here is too ostentatious, and  
that he dwells more than modestly allows upon his own accom-  
plishments; but self-praise is sometimes no fault. *Brown.*  
No wonder such a spirit, in such a situation, is provoked  
beyond the regards of religion or self-conviction. *Swift.*  
**SELFHEAL**. *n. f.* [*brunella*, Latin.] A plant. The same with  
**SANICLE**, which see.  
**SELFISH**. *adj.* [from *self*.] Attentive only to one's own inter-  
est; void of regard for others.  
What could the most aspiring *selfish* man desire more, were  
he to form the notion of a being to whom he would recom-  
mend himself, than such a knowledge as can discover the least  
appearance of perfection, and such a goodness as will propor-  
tion a reward to it? *Addison's Spectator.*  
Passions, though *selfish*, if their means be fair,  
Lift under reason, and deserve her care;  
Those that imparted court a nobler aim,  
Exalt their kind, and take some virtue's name. *Pope.*  
**SELFISHNESS**. *n. f.* [from *selfish*.] Attention to his own inter-  
est, without any regard to others; self-love.  
This sublimer love, being, by an intimate conjunction with  
its object, thoroughly refined from all base dross of *selfishness*  
and interest, nobly begets a perfect submission of our wills to  
the will of God. *Boyle's Seraphick Love.*  
**SELFISHLY**. *adv.* [from *selfish*.] With regard only to his own  
interest; without love of others.  
He can your merit *selfishly* approve,  
And thence the sense of it without the love. *Pope.*  
**SELFISAME**. *adj.* [*self* and *sane*.] Numerically the same.  
I have no great cause to look for other than the *self-same*  
portion and lot, which your manner hath been hitherto to lay  
on them that concur not in opinion with you. *Hooker, Pref.*  
Flight pursu'd one way the *self-same* hour. *Milton.*  
I have been base,  
Base ev'n to him from whom I did receive  
All that a son could to a parent give;  
Behold me punish'd in the *self-same* kind;  
Th' ungrateful does a more ungrateful find. *Dryden.*  
**SELFION**. *n. f.* [*selis*, low Latin.] A ridge of land. *Ainsw.*  
**SELL**. *pronom.* [for *self*.] *Sell* is retained in Scotland for *self*,  
and *sells* in the plural for *selves*.  
They turn round like grindle-stones,  
Which they dig out fro' the dells,  
For their bairns bread, wives and *sells*. *Ben. Johnson.*  
**SELL**. *n. f.* [*selles*, French; *selia*, Latin.] A saddle.  
Turning to that place, in which  
He left his lofty steed with golden *sells*,  
And goodly gorgeous barbes, him found not there. *F. Qu.*  
To **SELL**. *v. a.* [*sellan*, Saxon; *selia*, Icelandic.] To give  
for a price; the word correlative to buy; to vend.  
The Midianites *sold* him unto Egypt, unto Potiphar. *Gen.*  
Let us *sell* him to the Ishmaelites. *Gen. xxxvii. 27.*  
The first tenth part I gave to the sons of Aaron, and another  
I *sold* away. *Tob. i. 7.*  
All the inns and public houses are obliged to furnish them-  
selves with corn, which is *sold* out at a much dearer rate than  
it is bought up. *Addison on Italy.*  
You have made an order that ale should be *sold* for three  
half-pence a quart. *Swift.*  
To **SELL**. *v. n.* To have commerce or traffick with one.  
I will buy with you, *sell* with you; but I will not eat with  
you. *Shakspeare. Merchant of Venice.*  
Consult not with a buyer of *selling*. *Ecclesi. xxxvii. 11.*  
**SELLANDER**. *n. f.* A dry scab in a horse's hough or pas-  
tern. *Ainsworth.*  
**SELLER**. *n. f.* [from *sell*.] The person that sells; vender.  
To things of sale a *seller's* praise belongs. *Shakspeare.*  
The name of the agent, of the *seller*, notary, and wit-  
nesses, are in both instruments. *Addison on Italy.*  
**SELVAGE**. *n. f.* [Of this word I know not the etymology.  
*Skinner* thinks *selvage* is said as *salvage*, from its saving the  
cloth.] The edge of cloth where it is closed by compli-  
cating the threads.  
Make loops of blue upon the edge of the one curtain from  
the *selvage* in the coupling. *Ex. xxvii. 4.*  
**SELVES**. The plural of *self*.  
Consciousness being interrupted, and we losing sight of  
our past *selves*, doubts are raised whether we are the same. *Locke.*  
**SEMBLABLE**. *adj.* [*semblable*, French.] Like; resembling.  
Then be abhor'd  
All sects, societies, and throngs of men!  
His *semblable*, yea himself, Timon distains. *Shakspeare.*  
With *semblable* reason we might expect a regularity in the  
winds. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**SEMBLABLELY**. *adv.* [from *semblable*.] With resemblance.  
A gallant knight he was, his name was Blunt;  
*Seemingly* furnish'd like the king himself. *Shakspeare. H. IV.*

**SEMBLANCE**. *n. f.* [*semblance*, Fr. from *semblant*.]  
1. Likeness; resemblance; similitude; representation.  
Solicit Henry with her wondrous praise;  
Bethink thee on her virtues, that surmount  
Her natural graces, that extinguish art:  
Repeat their *semblance* often. *Shakspeare.*  
She's but the sign and *semblance* of her honour:  
Behold how like a maid she blushes here!  
O, what authority and shew of truth  
Can cunning sin cover itself withal! *Shakspeare.*  
He with high words, that bore  
*Semblance* of worth, not substance, gently rais'd  
Their fainting courage, and dispell'd their fears. *Milton.*  
This last effort brought forth the opinion, that these bodies  
are not what they seem to be; that they are no shells, but  
mere sportings of active nature, and only *semblances* or imita-  
tions of shells. *Woodward.*  
It is not his meaning that we put on the outward face and  
*semblance* of virtue, only to conceal and disguise our vice. *Reg.*  
2. Appearance; show; figure.  
Be you the soldier; for you likest are,  
For many *semblance* and for skill in war. *Spenser.*  
Their *semblance* kind, and mild their gestures were,  
Peace in their hands, and friendship in their face. *Fairfax.*  
All that fair and good in thy divine  
*Semblance*, and in thy beauty's heav'nly ray,  
United I behold. *Milt. Par. Lost.*  
**SEMBLANT**. *adj.* [*semblant*, French.] Like; resembling;  
having the appearance of anything. Little used.  
In despite of age, of impious flame,  
And eating time, thy picture, like thy fame,  
Entire may last; that as their eyes survey  
The *semblant* shade, men yet unborn may say,  
Thus great, thus gracious look'd Britannia's queen;  
Her brow thus smooth, her look thus serene. *Prior.*  
**SEMBLANT**. *n. f.* Show; figure; resemblance; representa-  
tion. Not in use.  
Her purpose was not such as she did feign,  
Ne yet her person such as it was seen;  
But under simple shew, and *semblant* plain,  
Lurks false Duella, secretly unseen. *Fairy Queen.*  
Full lively is the *semblant*, tho' the substance dead. *Spens.*  
**SEMBLATIVE**. *adj.* [from *semblant*.] Suitable; accommodate;  
fit; resembling.  
Diana's lip  
Is not more smooth and ruby; thy small pipe  
Is as the maiden's organ, shrill and sound;  
And all is *semblative* a woman's part. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*  
To **SEMBLE**. *v. n.* [*sembler*, French.] To represent; to make  
a likeness. Little used.  
Let Europe, sav'd, the column high erect,  
Than Trajan's higher, or than Antonine's,  
Where *sembling* art may carve the fair effect,  
And full achievement of thy great designs. *Prior.*  
**SEMI**. *n. f.* [Latin.] A word which, used in composition,  
signifies half: as *semicircle*, half a circle.  
**SEMIANNULAR**. *adj.* [*semi* and *annulus*, a ring.] Half round.  
Another boar tusk, somewhat slenderer, and of a *semiannu-*  
lar figure. *Great's Museum.*  
**SEMIREF**. *n. f.* [*semibreve*, French.]  
*Semibreve* is a note in music relating to time, and is the last  
in augmentation. It is commonly called the master-note, or  
measure-note, or time-note, as being of a certain determinate  
measure or length of time by itself; and all the other notes of  
augmentation and diminution are adjusted to its value. *Harris.*  
He takes my hand, and as a still which stays  
A *semibreve*, 'twixt each drop, he niggardly,  
As loth to enrich me, fo-tells many a ye. *Drom.*  
**SEMICIRCLE**. *n. f.* [*semicirculus*, Lat. *semi* and *circulus*.] A half  
round; part of a circle divided by the diameter.  
Black brows  
Become some women best, fo they be in a *semicircle*,  
Or a half-moon, made with a pen. *Shakspeare.*  
Has he given the lie  
In circle, or oblique, or *semicircle*,  
Or direct parallel? *Shakspeare.*  
The chains that held my left leg gave me the liberty of  
walking backwards and forwards in a *semicircle*. *Swift.*  
**SEMICIRCLED**. *adj.* [*semi* and *circulus*.] Half round.  
**SEMICIRCULAR**. *adj.* [*semi* and *circulus*.] Half round.  
The firm fixure of thy foot would give an excellent mo-  
tion to thy gait, in a *semicircled* farthingale. *Shakspeare.*  
The rainbow is caused by the rays of the sun falling upon a  
roind and opposite cloud, whereof some reflected, others re-  
fracted, beget the *semicircular* variety we call the rainbow.  
The seas are inclosed between the two *semicircular* moles  
that surround it. *Addison on Italy.*  
**SEMICOLON**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *colon*.] Half a colon; a point  
made thus [;] to note a greater pause than that of a comma.  
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SEMDIA'METER.

## SEM

**SEMDIA'METER**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *diameter*.] Half the line  
which, drawn through the centre of a circle, divides it into  
two equal parts; a straight line drawn from the circumference  
to the center of a circle.  
Their difference is as little considerable as a *semidiameter* of  
the earth in two measures of the highest heaven, the one  
taken from the surface of the earth, the other from its centre:  
the disproportion is just nothing. *More.*  
The force of this instrument consists in the disproportion  
of distance betwixt the *semidiameter* of the cylinder and the  
*semidiameter* of the bundle with the spokes. *Wilkins.*  
**SEMDIAPHANEITY**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *diaphaneity*.] Half  
transparency; imperfect transparency.  
The transparency or *semidiaphaneity* of the superficial cor-  
puscles of bigger bodies may have an interest in the produc-  
tion of their colours. *Boyle on Colours.*  
**SEMDIAPHANOUS**. *adj.* [*semi* and *diaphanous*.] Half tran-  
parent; imperfectly transparent.  
Another plate, finely variegated with a *semidiaphanous* grey  
or sky, yellow and brown. *Woodward on Fossils.*  
**SEMDIOUBLE**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *double*.] In the Romish bre-  
viary, such offices and feast-as are celebrated with less solemnity  
than the double ones, but yet with more than the single  
ones. *Bailey.*  
**SEMDIOSCULOUS**. *adj.* [*semi* and *sculus*, Latin.] Having  
a semiloret.  
**SEMDIORET**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *foret*.] Among florists, an  
half flourish, which is tubulous at the beginning like a foret,  
and afterwards expanded in the form of a tongue. *Bailey.*  
**SEMDIUID**. *adj.* [*semi* and *fluid*.] Imperfectly fluid.  
Phlegm, or petuise, is a sort of *semifluid*, it being so far  
solid that one part draws along several other parts adhering to  
it, which do not happen in a perfect fluid, and yet no part  
will draw the whole mass, as happens in a perfect solid. *Arb.*  
**SEMDIUNAR**. *adj.* [*semilunaris*, Fr. *semi* and *luna*, Latin.]  
**SEMDIUNARY**. *adj.* [*semilunary*, Fr. *semi* and *luna*, Latin.]  
Resembling in form a half moon.  
The eyes are guarded with a *semilunar* ridge. *Grew.*  
**SEMDIMETAL**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *metal*.] Half metal; imperfect  
metal.  
*Semimetals* are metallic fossils, heavy, opaque, of a bright  
glittering surface, and not malleable under the hammer; such  
as quicksilver, antimony, cobalt, with the arsenicks, bismuth,  
zink, with its ore calamine: to these may be added the semi-  
metallic recements, such as tutty and pampholyx. *Hill.*  
**SEMINALITY**. *n. f.* [from *semen*, Latin.]  
1. The nature of seed.  
As though there were a *seminality* in urine, or that, like the  
seed, it carried with it the idea of every part, they foolishly  
conceive we visibly behold therein the anatomy of every par-  
ticle. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
2. The power of being produced.  
In the seeds of wheat there lieth obscurely the *seminality* of  
darnel. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**SEMINAL**. *adj.* [*seminalis*, French; *seminis*, Latin.]  
1. Belonging to seed.  
2. Contained in the seed; radical.  
Had our senses never presented us with those obvious *seminal*  
principles of apparent generations, we should never have  
suspected that a plant or animal would have proceeded from  
such unlikely materials. *Glavin, Scops.*  
Though we cannot prolong the period of a commonwealth  
beyond the decree of heaven, or the date of its nature, any  
more than human life beyond the strength of the *seminal* vir-  
tue, yet we may manage a sickly constitution, and preserve a  
strong one. *Swift.*  
**SEMINARY**. *n. f.* [*seminaire*, Fr. *seminarium* from *seminis*, Lat.]  
1. The ground where any thing is sown to be afterwards trans-  
planted.  
Some, at the first transplanting trees out of their *seminaries*,  
cut them off about an inch from the ground, and plant them  
like quickset. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
2. The place or original stock whence any thing is brought.  
This stratum is still expanded at top of all, serving for a  
common integument, and being the *seminary* or promptuary  
that furnisheth forth matter for the formation and increment of  
animal and vegetable bodies. *Woodward.*  
3. Seminal state.  
The hand of God, who first created the earth, hath wisely  
contrived them in their proper *seminaries*, and where they best  
maintain the intention of their species. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
4. Original; first principles.  
Nothing subministrates apter matter to be converted into  
pestilent *seminaries*, sooner than steams of nasty folks and  
beggars. *Harvey on the Plague.*  
5. Breeding place; place of education; from whence scholars  
are transplanted into life.  
It was the seat of the greatest monarchy, and the *seminary*  
of the greatest men of the world, whilst it was heathen. *Bacon.*  
The inns of court must be the worst instituted *seminaries*  
in any Christian country. *Swift.*

## SEM

**SEMINATION**. *n. f.* [from *seminis*, Latin.] The act of  
sowing.  
**SEMINIFICAL**. *adj.* [*seminis* and *facio*, Latin.] Productive of  
SEMINIFICK. } seed.  
We are made to believe, that in the fourteenth year males  
are *seminifical* and pubescent; but he that shall inquire into  
the generality, will rather adhere unto Aristotle. *Brown.*  
**SEMINIFICATION**. *n. f.*  
*Seminification* is the propagation from the seed or *seminal*  
parts. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
**SEMIOPACOUS**. *adj.* [*semi* and *opacus*, Latin.] Half dark.  
*Semioacus* bodies are such as, looked upon in an ordinary  
light, and not held betwixt it and the eye, are not wont to be  
discriminated from the rest of opacous bodies. *Boyle.*  
**SEMIPEDAL**. *adj.* [*semi* and *pedis*, Latin.] Containing half a  
foot.  
**SEMIPEPISCUCOUS**. *adj.* [*semi* and *perspicuus*, Latin.] Half  
transparent; imperfectly clear.  
A kind of amethystine flint, not composed of crystals or  
grains; but one intire massy stone, *semiperspicuus*, and of a  
pale blue, almost of the colour of some cow's horns. *Grew.*  
**SEMIORDINATE**. *n. f.* [In conick sections.] A line drawn  
at right angles to and bisected by the axis, and reaching from  
one side of the section to another; the half of which is pro-  
perly the *semiorordinate*, but is now called the ordinate. *Harris.*  
**SEMPIPELLUCID**. *adj.* [*semi* and *pellucidus*, Latin.] Half clear;  
imperfectly transparent.  
A light grey *semipellucid* flint, of much the same complexion  
with the common Indian agat. *Woodward.*  
**SEMPIPROOF**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *proof*.] The proof of a single  
evidence. *Bailey.*  
**SEMIQUADRATE**. *n. f.* [In astronomy.] An aspect of the  
*SEMIQUARTILE* } planets when distant from each other forty  
five degrees, or one sign and a half. *Bailey.*  
**SEMIQUAVER**. *n. f.* [In music.] A note containing half the  
quantity of the quaver. *Bailey.*  
**SEMIQUINTILE**. *n. f.* [In astronomy.] An aspect of the plan-  
ets when at the distance of thirty-six degrees from one an-  
other. *Bailey.*  
**SEMISEXILE**. *n. f.* [In astronomy.] A semisextile; an aspect of  
the planets when they are distant from each other one twelfth  
part of a circle, or thirty degrees. *Bailey.*  
**SEMI SPHERICAL**. *adj.* [*semi* and *spherical*.] Belonging to  
half a sphere. *Bailey.*  
**SEMI SPHEROIDAL**. *adj.* [*semi* and *spheroidal*.] Formed like a  
half spheroid.  
**SEMI TERTIAN**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *tertian*.] An ague com-  
pounded of a tertian and a quotidian. *Bailey.*  
The natural product of such a cold moist year are tertians,  
*semitertians*, and some quartans. *Arbutnot on Air.*  
**SEMITONE**. *n. f.* [*semiton*, French.] In music, one of the  
degrees of continuous intervals of concords. *Bailey.*  
**SEMI VOVEL**. *n. f.* [*semi* and *vowel*.] A consonant which  
makes an imperfect sound, or does not demand a total occlu-  
sion of the month.  
When Homer would represent any agreeable object, he  
makes use of the smoothest vowels and most flowing *semi-*  
*vowels*. *Brown's Note to the Odyssey.*  
**SEMPERVIVE**. *n. f.* [*semper* and *vivus*, Latin, that is, always  
alive.] A plant.  
The greater *sempervive* will put out branches two or three  
years; but they wrap the root in an oil cloth once in half a  
year. *Bacon.*  
**SEMPITERNAL**. *adj.* [*sempternus*, Fr. *sempternus*, from *semper*  
and *eternus*, Latin.]  
1. Eternal in futurity; having beginning, but no end.  
Those, though they suppose the world not to be eternal,  
*a parte ante*, are not contented to suppose it to be *semi-*  
*perpetual*, or eternal *a parte post*; but will carry up the crea-  
tion of the world to an immense antiquity. *Hale.*  
2. In poetry it is used simply for eternal.  
Should we the long depending scale ascend  
Of sons and fathers, will it never end?  
If 'twill, then must we through the order run,  
To some one man whose being ne'er begun;  
If that one man was *sempereternal*, why  
Did he, since independent, ever die? *Blackmore.*  
**SEMPITERNITY**. *n. f.* [*sempternitas*, Latin.] Future dura-  
tion without end.  
The future eternity, or *sempternity* of the world, being ad-  
mitted, though the eternity *a parte ante* be denied, there will  
be a future infinity for the emanation of the divine good-  
ness. *Hale.*  
**SEMPITRESS**. *n. f.* [*sempitress*, Saxon.] A woman whose  
business is to sew; a woman who lives by her needle.  
Two hundred *sempitresses* were employed to make me shirts,  
and linnen for bed and table, which they were forced to quilt  
together in several folds. *Cadwallar's Travel.*  
The tuck'd up *sempitress* walks with hasty strides. *Swift.*  
**SENNARY**. *adj.* [*senarius*, *semi*, Latin.] Belonging to the num-  
ber six; containing six.  
SENATE.